

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing having proximal and distal sides, the proximal side defining an outermost surface to form the bodyside surface of the dressing, comprising:

an absorbent core defining peripheral edges and having opposed proximal and distal surfaces including central and border portions;

a discrete skin adherent facing layer comprising a cross-linked silicone gel, the facing layer having a proximal surface, and a distal surface directly secured to the proximal surface of the absorbent core and delimited by the peripheral edges thereof, said facing layer defining a region having a plurality of through extending apertures arranged in a pattern; and

a discrete pressure sensitive adhesive layer applied directly to the facing layer on at least a segment of the proximal surface thereof only surrounding the region of the apertures;

wherein the facing layer and the adhesive layer are contiguous and combine to define the entirety of the ~~proximal side~~ bodyside surface of the dressing;

wherein the adhesive layer has greater skin adherence properties than the elastomeric gel of the facing layer;

wherein the adhesive layer is located along at least one segment of a border portion of the facing layer corresponding to the border portion of the absorbent core.

Claim 2. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of apertures of the facing layer are generally located along a central portion thereof corresponding to the central portion of the absorbent core.

Claim 3. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 2, wherein a border portion of the facing layer generally corresponding to the border portion of the absorbent core is substantially free of said apertures.

Claim 4. (Cancelled)

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer is applied to at least two opposed sides of the border portion of the facing layer.

Claim 6. (Cancelled)

Claim 7. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer is only applied near the peripheral border of the facing layer.

Claim 8. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the apertures of the facing layer are provided only at a central portion of the facing layer corresponding to a central portion of the absorbent core, said adhesive layer is applied in a region bordering the central portion of the facing layer.

Claim 9. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer is generally apertured.

Claim 10. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer is an acrylate glue.

Claim 11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing having proximal and distal sides, the proximal side defining an outermost surface to form the bodyside surface of the dressing, comprising:

an absorbent core defining peripheral edges and having opposed proximal and distal surfaces including central and border portions;

a discrete skin adherent facing layer comprising a cross-linked silicone gel, the facing layer having a proximal surface, and a distal surface directly secured to the proximal surface of the absorbent core and delimited by the peripheral edges thereof, said facing layer defining a region having a plurality of through extending apertures arranged in a pattern, the facing layer having a central portion and a border portion bordering the central portion; and

a discrete pressure sensitive adhesive layer applied directly to the facing layer on at least a segment of the proximal surface thereof surrounding the region of the apertures;

wherein the facing layer and the adhesive layer are contiguous and combine to define the entirety of the ~~proximal side~~ bodyside surface of the dressing;

wherein the adhesive layer is applied to at least two opposed sides of the border portion of the facing layer;

wherein the adhesive layer is generally apertured.

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Cancelled)

Claim 15. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the adhesive layer has greater skin adherence properties than the elastomeric gel of the facing layer.

Claims 16-18. (Cancelled)

Claim 19. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the proximal surface of the facing layer is generally planar.

Claim 20. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the distal surface of the facing layer is generally planar.

Claim 21 - 26 (Cancelled)

Claim 27. (New) A wound dressing having proximal and distal sides, the proximal side defining an outermost surface to form the bodyside surface of the dressing, comprising:

an absorbent core defining peripheral edges and having opposed proximal and distal surfaces including central and border portions;

a discrete skin adherent facing layer comprising a cross-linked silicone gel, the facing layer having a proximal surface, and a distal surface directly secured to the proximal surface of the absorbent core and delimited by the peripheral edges thereof, said facing layer defining a region having a plurality of through extending apertures arranged in a pattern and formed irrespective of the proximal surface of the absorbent core; and

a discrete pressure sensitive adhesive layer applied directly to the facing layer on at least a segment of the proximal surface thereof only surrounding the region of the apertures;

wherein the facing layer and the adhesive layer are contiguous and combine to define the entirety of the bodyside surface of the dressing;

wherein the adhesive layer has greater skin adherence properties than the elastomeric gel of the facing layer.